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Date: 1 June 2007

Coversheet + 13 Page(s)

RECIPIENT(S): Examiner Hanh Van Tran (GAU 3637)  
United States Patent and Trademark  
Office  
  
Main Group Art Unit 3637

Telecopier No.: 571 273 6868

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Regarding: USSN 10/674,278  
Debraal et al.  
Attorney Docket No. 1217.18403  
Lifting Column for a Medical Examination Table

Comments: Attached for filing is Amendment C to the above patent application. Please note the attachment of the "Applicant Initiated Interview Request. Fees due in connection with this amendment should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-2360

From: Patrick J. Fleis, Reg. No. 55,185  
RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.

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Patent

Customer No.: 26308

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Debraal, et al.

Attorney Docket No. 1217.18403

Serial No.: 10/674,278

Examiner: Hanh Van Tran

Filed: 29 September 2003

Group Art Unit: 3637

Title: Lifting Column for a Medical Examination Table

APPLICANT INITIATED INTERVIEW REQUESTCommissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby requests an interview with the Examiner in this application as follows:

**Status of Application:**

On November 6, 2006, Applicant filed Amendment B, including a Request for Continued Examination in response to a Final Office Action dated July 5, 2006. On December 1, 2006, the Examiner mailed a non-final Office Action. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. In Amendment C, filed on June 1, 2007, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-18 and added proposed claims 19 - 21.

**Tentative Participants:**

- (1) Patrick J. Fleis (attorney of record)
- (2) John M. Manion (attorney of record)
- (3) Mark E. Jensen (representative of Assignee of record)

**Proposed Date of Interview:**

Thursday, June 7 2007

**Proposed Time:**

1:00 P.M.

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**Type of Interview:**

Personal

**Exhibit to be Shown or Demonstrated:**

Applicant will present a power point presentation and video to show and distinguish the inventive features of the present invention compared to the prior art.

**Issues to be Discussed:**

Applicant seeks to discuss new independent claim 19 and dependent claims 20-21 with the recitation that Applicant will also be prepared to distinguish what the Applicant believes to be the inventive feature of the present invention compared to the prior art, most specifically Agee, Yindra, and Blyshack.

Issues	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
New independent claim 19 and dependent claims 20-21 are patentable in view of the prior art of record.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

**Draft Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1 -18. (cancelled)

Claim 19 (new) An adjustable examination table for supporting a patient comprising:  
a support table;

a stationary base; and

an adjustable height column, said column capable of supporting said patient when said column is being adjusted, said column comprising:

at least three sleeve sections, said sleeve sections slidably, connected to one another and nestingly arranged within one another, one of said sleeve sections attached to said stationary base, another of said sleeve sections attached to said support table;

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at least two longitudinally extending guide rails, said guide rail having oppositely disposed parallel guide surfaces, wherein at least one of said longitudinally extending guide rails is secured to one of each nesting pair of said sleeve sections, said cam followers are rotatably connected to other of said nesting pair of said sleeve sections;

at first pair of oppositely disposed spaced apart cam followers being longitudinally in guiding contact with a respective one of said parallel guide surfaces;

a second pair of oppositely disposed spaced apart cam followers being in longitudinally guiding contact with a respective one of said parallel guide surfaces, said second pair of cam followers latitudinally spaced apart from said first pair of cam followers, said second pair of cam followers providing support for a patient on said support table; and

at least two independently operated actuators for sliding said sleeve sections relative to one another; and

wherein said examination table is capable of supporting said patient.

Claim 20. (new) The table according to claim 19 comprising at least three longitudinally extending guide rails, said guide rail having oppositely disposed parallel guide surfaces, wherein at least one of said longitudinally extending guide rails is secured to one of each nesting pair of said sleeve sections, said cam followers are rotatably connected to other of said nesting pair of said sleeve sections; and

a third pair of oppositely disposed spaced apart cam followers being in longitudinally guiding contact with a respective one of said parallel guide surfaces, said third pair of cam followers latitudinally spaced apart from said first pair and said second pair of cam followers, said third pair of cam followers providing support for a patient on said support table.

Claim 21. (new) The table according to claim 19 wherein the height is adjustable to a maximum height of at least 39 inches and a minimum height of at least below 20 inches.

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An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on

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Patrick J. Fleis  
Registration No. 55,185

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Examiner/SPE Signature

Respectfully Submitted,

By



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Patrick J. Fleis  
Registration No. 55,185

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22 May 2006  
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